

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 8 MAR 2002

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Michele TRUCKSIS

Examiner: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: March 18, 2002

Title: Virulence Genes of *M. marinum* and *M. tuberculosis*PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 11-18, 20, 23-24, 26-40, 48-49, 51-76 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

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5. (Amended) An avirulent *M. marinum* bacterium, in which one or more genes comprising a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 13, 23, 25, or 31 is mutated.

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9. (Amended) An avirulent *M. tuberculosis* bacterium, in which one or more of genes Rv0822c, Rv3137, or Rv2348c, is mutated to render the *M. tuberculosis* bacterium less virulent.